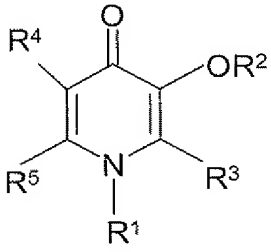
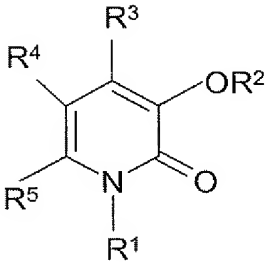
Claims:

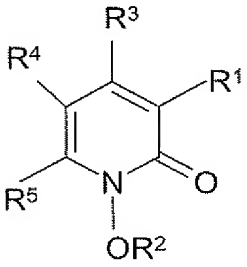
1. **(Currently amended)** A method for treating a skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) comprising topically administering a hydroxypyridonone of formulae (I-III):



(I)



(II)



(III)

wherein

$R^1$ represents a ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)- alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkenyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkoxy, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$) hydroxyalkyl, ($C_5$-$C_{12}$) -aralkyl, ($C_3$-$C_{12}$)-cycloalkyl, ($C_1$-$C_8$)- carboalkoxy or ($C_1$-$C_8$)- carbamyl, or a ($C_{10}$-$C_{30}$)-peptide ~~or peptidomimetic moiety~~, or a ($C_3$-$C_6$) polyol or monosaccharide;

$R^2$ represents an hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated lo ($C_1$-$C_{22}$)-acyl, optionally substituted by ($C_1$-$C_8$)-alkoxy, carboxy, ($C_1$-$C_8$) alkoxycarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, said amino and hydroxy being optionally ($C_1$-$C_{22}$)-acylated or - alkylated;

$R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^5$, each individually, represent a hydrogen atom, or ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)- alkenyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkoxy, ($C_5$-$C_{12}$ aryl) alkyl, ($C_5$-$C_{12}$ )-cycloalkyl, ($C_1$-$C_8$ carbo)-alkoxy or ($C_1$-$C_8$)-carbamyl group;

with the proviso that both $R^1$ and $R^3$ are not hydrogen;

or a dermatologically/cosmetically salt thereof.

2. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is rosacea.

3. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is cutaneous vasculitis.

4. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is actinic purpura.

5. **(Previously presented)** A method according to claim 1, wherein the skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) is a skin capillaritis.

6.**(Currently amended)** A method according to claim 8, wherein the skin capillaritis is ~~progressive pigmentary dermatosis~~, purpura annularis telangiectodes, ~~lichen aureus,~~ contact allergy skin capillaritis, ~~lichens aureus,~~ itching purpura, or eczematid-like purpura~~, or pigmented purpuric lichenoid dermatosis~~.

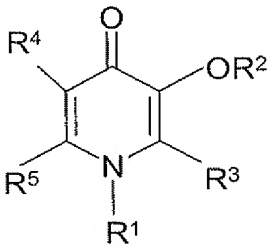
7. **(Cancelled)**

8. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein $R^1$ and $R^2$ are methyl, $R^3$ and $R^4$ are hydrogens.

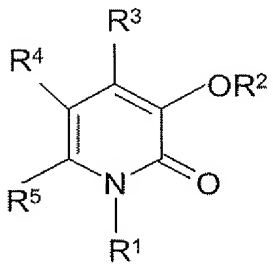
9. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein $R^1$and $R^2$ are ethyl $R^3$ and $R^4$ are hydrogens.

10. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 1, wherein $R^1$ is $CH_2CH_2OH$, $R^2$ is methyl or ethyl, and $R^3$ and $R^4$ are hydrogens.

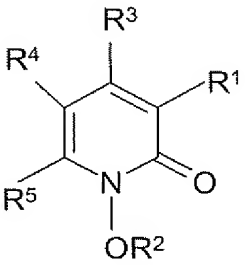
11. **(Currently amended)** A method for the treatment of skin microcirculatory disorder (SMD) comprising locally applying to a mammal in need thereof of a therapeutically effective amount of hydroxypyridonone compound of formulae (I-III):




(I)




(II)




(III)

wherein

$R^1$ represents a ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)- alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkenyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkoxy, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$) hydroxyalkyl, ($C_5$-$C_{12}$) -aralkyl, ($C_3$-$C_{12}$)-cycloalkyl, ($C_1$-$C_8$)- carboalkoxy or ($C_1$-$C_8$)- carbamyl, or a ($C_{10}$-$C_{30}$)-peptide ~~or peptidomimetic moiety~~, or a ($C_3$-$C_6$) polyol or monosaccharide;

$R^2$ represents an hydrogen atom or a linear or branched, saturated or unsaturated ($C_1$-$C_{22}$)-acyl, optionally substituted by ($C_1$-$C_8$)-alkoxy, carboxy, ($C_1$-$C_8$) alkoxycarbonyl, amino, hydroxy, said amino and hydroxy being optionally ($C_1$-$C_{22}$)-acylated or - alkylated;

$R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^5$, each individually, represent a hydrogen atom, or ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)- alkenyl, ($C_1$-$C_{10}$)-alkoxy, ($C_5$-$C_{12}$ aryl) alkyl, ($C_5$-$C_{12}$ )-cycloalkyl, ($C_1$-$C_8$ carbo)-alkoxy or ($C_1$-$C_8$)-carbamyl group;

with the proviso that both $R^1$ and $R^3$ are not hydrogen;

or a dermatologically/cosmetically acceptable salt thereof

in admixture with a dermatologically/cosmetically acceptable carrier.

12. **(Previosly presented)** A method according to claim 11, for the treatment of rosacea, cutaneous vasculitis, or actinic purpura.

13. **(Currently amended)** A method according to Claim ~~14~~ 11, for the treatment of ~~progressive pigmented purpura,~~ itching purpura, ~~pigmented purpuric lichenoid dermatosis,~~ purpura annularis telangiectodes~~,~~ or contact allergy skin capillaritis,~~ or lichens aureus~~.

14. **(Currently amended)** A method according to Claim ~~14~~ 11, for the treatment of traumatic skin haemorrhage~~, a complication of sehlerotherapy, lipoplasty or tattooing, drug induced pigmented purpuric dermatosis,~~ or actinic purpura.

15. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 11, wherein $R^2$, $R^3$, $R^4$ and $R^5$, each individually, represent a hydrogen atom.

**16. (Previously presented)** A method according to claim 11, wherein $R^1$and $R^3$ each individually, represent ($C_1$-$C_4$)- alkyl, hydroxyalkyl or alkoxy.

17. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 11, wherein said $R^2$ acyl group is formed by unbranched, naturally occurring caprylic acid, cupric acid, lauric acid, myristic acid, palmitic acid, palmitoleic acid, stearic acid, oleic acid, vaccenic, linoleic acid, alpha-linolenic acid, eleostearic, delta-linolenic acid, gondoic acid, dihomo-y-linolenic acid, arachidonic acid, eicosapentaenoic acid, docosenoic acid, docosatekaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic acid, docosapentaenoic, docosahexacuoic acid, nervonic or a mixture thereof.

18. **(Withdrawn)** A method according to claim 11, wherein said $R^2$ acyl is a $C_{1-8}$ which is branched at the carbon atom adjacent to the carbonyl group.

19. **(Currently amended)** A method according to claim 11, wherein said hydroxypyridonone is 1, 2 dimethyl-3-hydroxy-4-pyridinone (deferiprone); 1,2-diethyl-3- hydroxy- 4-pyridinone; 1-methyl-2-ethyl-3-hydroxy-4-pyridinone~~; 1-methyl- 2-ethyl-3-hydroxy-4-pyridinone~~ or 1-methyl-2-(2-methoxy-ethyl)-3-hydroxy-4- pyridinone.